

EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS CALLED

The President Has Also Ordered That a Policy of Armed Neutrality Be Put Into Effect

Last Friday it was announced that the President had decided to order that a policy of armed neutrality be put into effect immediately, by the arming of American merchant vessels, and he also called an extra session of Congress to meet Monday, April 14, in order to have its "support and control in all matters collateral to the defense of our merchant marine."

On the mature advice of the Government's highest legal authorities the President decided that failure of his armed neutrality bill at the last session left him with sufficient authority under existing statutes to issue naval guns to merchantmen. He is expected, however, to ask that all doubt on the point be removed by passage of a specific authorization as soon as Congress meets.

Proclamation Calling Extra Session.
"Whereas, public interests require that the Congress of the United States should be convened in extra session at 12 o'clock noon on the 16th day of April, 1917, to receive such communications as may be made by the Executive;

"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and declare that an extraordinary session requires the Congress of the United States to convene in extra session at the Capitol in the City of Washington on the sixteenth day of April, 1917, at 12 o'clock noon, of which all persons who shall at that time be entitled to act as members thereof are hereby required to take notice.

"Given under my hand and the seal of the United States of America, the ninth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and forty-first."

Ships to Be Armed At Once.
Mr. Wilson has the backing of the entire Cabinet in taking the step. Guns for arming merchantmen have been assembled at navy yards along the Atlantic coast and everything is ready to carry out the policy announced by the President.

It was learned definitely that some American merchant ships sailing for the submarine zone will be armed by the Government at once. Preliminary arrangements have been completed, and it is expected that vessels will be ready to sail in the near future.

Lacking legal authority to establish general censorship, the administration has appealed to the patriotism of the country's newspapers and cable companies to suppress publication and transmission of information about the movements of the American merchant craft, now to be armed against German submarines.

Secretary of Navy Makes Appeal to Suppress News of Ship Movements.
"The best news that readers can have," Secretary Daniels said, in a formal statement to press representatives, "is that the Government will protect the rights of Americans to the freedom of the seas."

"The publication of details can serve no good purpose and might jeopardize human life."

Mr. Daniels has determined not to reveal any of the department's plans for carrying out the policy ordered by President Wilson. He previously had stated, however, that the navy is prepared with guns, ammunition, gun-crews and all other necessary equipment or personnel to carry out the instructions.

Navy yard commandants will superintend the actual installation of guns on merchant craft. The rifles, ammunition, mounts, range-finders and other accessories are already stored at the yards. They range from heavy 6-inch rifles to 3-inch weapons and smaller guns. The number of guns to go on each ship, the personnel selected from the active list of the navy or from the reserve, to handle the guns, the time of sailing or the names of the ships that have been armed will not be disclosed.

Secretary Daniels in his statement to the newspaper men, said:
"You have read the statement issued from the White House and now you know that the President has the power to arm American merchantmen making trips on the seas on lawful errands and is free to exercise it at once. I do not think you ought to ask with what guns they will be armed or how they will be manned or exactly when the power will be exercised. The Government should be trusted fully to carry out the policy announced in the best way."

"I do not think you ought to ask when the ships will be armed or print when they will sail. Today I requested every cable company in America not to send out any news about ships sailing to or from Europe. The wireless stations are under the direction of the Navy Department and no news of sailings will go out by radio."

"I am going to request you and every newspaper and every news agency in the United States not to print any news about the arrival of ships or when any of them will sail for European ports. There is no power of censorship in our country. The President does not have any authority over the press."

"In this time of national emergency I feel sure that every newspaper will accede to the request not to give a hint or a speculation of the sailing of American ships. Such publication might result in the loss of life. As the reasons are so obvious for making this request, there is confidence in administration circles that this request will be complied with by every paper in the country."

"All patriotic Americans are ready

to make sacrifice for their country in time of emergency. The press can render the highest patriotic service by refraining from printing at this time what ordinarily we would freely print."

"Inasmuch as it will be impossible to reach every paper and news agency directly, I will ask all papers to carry this request, which is made as an appeal to patriotism to all journalists and disseminators of news. The best news the readers can have is that the Government will protect the rights of America to the freedom of the seas. The publication of details can serve no good purpose and might jeopardize human life. All readers will surely applaud the papers in responding to this appeal."

Plans for Arming Ships.
With the departure of the first armed American ship it will be necessary for the Navy Department to issue instructions to gun crews as to the manner in which the weapons are to be employed. In that will be involved a declaration of policy as to whether the appearance of a submarine in the neighborhood of the ship is sufficient to warrant opening fire. Officials would not discuss this aspect of the situation.

When the application of a ship owner for arms has been approved by the Navy Department, the commandant of the nearest navy yard will be instructed to place the guns aboard. Most of the work probably will be done at the navy yards, where facilities are available for handling heavy weights quickly. In some cases structural changes in ship's decks may be necessary to carry the gun weight. In any event, however, it will take no more than a few days to outfit a ship. Contracts for additional guns of suitable size are being speeded up. It is expected they can be completed so that weapons will be quickly available for converting merchant craft into naval auxiliaries if war comes.

Under a bill passed near the end of the last session the amount of money at the disposal of the Government War Risk Bureau for insuring American ships was increased to \$15,000,000. Under the present rule of the bureau the Government does not insure ships carrying arms or munitions.

AMERICANS TO GIVE \$5,000,000 TO RESTORE LOUVAIN UNIVERSITY

The University of Louvain, Belgium, damaged by fire and bombardment when the city was taken by the Germans in the early days of the war, is to be restored through the efforts of American educational institutions. This was learned in New York upon the arrival from France and England on the steamship Adriatic of Clifford N. Carver, former secretary to Ambassador Page at London, and later secretary to Col. E. M. House, on his last trip to Europe.

Mr. Carver said that plans for this work, which will entail the expenditure of approximately \$5,000,000, have been under preparation for some time. It was to consult with Belgian officials and to obtain from them detailed plans and drawings of the buildings, together with a report of the actual damage, that he went to Europe two months ago.

The committee to have the work in charge will be composed, he asserted, of heads of some of the leading universities and colleges of the United States and several prominent American financiers. Part of the plan will be to replace, so far as possible, the library that was burned when the city was bombarded.

Mr. Carver said present plans are for restoration to be begun as soon as peace is declared. The restored university will be the gift to Belgium from America's educational institutions.

The University of Louvain was founded in 1426 by Pope Martin V and Duke John of Burgundy. Prior to the war it had five faculties and was attended by about 1,600 students. After the occupation of Belgium by the Germans many of the professors came to the United States and now are attached to universities here.

HOLLAND A VAST ICE RINK

The Hague, Netherlands, March 10.—Holland is at the moment one big skating rink. From sovereign to humblest peasant, from aged grandmother and grandfather to the tiniest toddlers, the nation is gliding serenely, merrily along on skates.

In striking contrast with the last three mild winters, a most intense and continuous cold spell has set in, and despite brilliant sunshine every lake and canal is frozen as hard as the cobbled streets.

One can go from The Hague to Amsterdam, to Rotterdam, to virtually any part of the country on skates. The lakes outside the royal house in the wood at the Hague resemble nothing so much as a fair. On the big rink of the Ice Club nearby may be occasionally seen the Queen herself, on skates among the throng. Down in the children's corner at the Ice Club rink is the little 7-year-old Princess Juliana. Mounted on Frisian skates, she glides and shuffles and slips among the other small "krabbelaars" "scratches" or "scrappers" as the beginners are called.

TOOTHSONE MEATS

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IMPORTANCE OF WORKING MEN ORGANIZING

(Contributed.)

Labor, it is said, is a commodity to be bought and sold, and it is as idle to attempt to regulate the price of this, or any other commodity, as to try to stop the flow of the tides. Labor, however, is a commodity of a peculiar sort. It is a part of the very being of the man who sells it. The commodity sold is a human creature, whose welfare in the eyes of the law should be of more importance than any mere accumulation of wealth on the part of the employer. It is a commodity, further, which it is difficult to sell to advantage. The workingman cannot know the best market for this ware, his labor, nor can he sell it at any place except where he himself is. He cannot send a sample of it, nor can he, without organized effort, regulate the supply. As long as he lives and is without resources, he must work and for many years in succession he may be forced to sell his product at a price considerably less than the cost to society of reproducing it.

The commodity of labor is one which, in a great many instances, can be supplied by women and children, and if there is no limit set either by organization or by the force of law to its exploitation, it can very well result in the wholesale destruction of the commodity itself, and in the permanent deterioration of the workmen of the community. Without organization and without the interference of the law, therefore, the individual workman is practically at the mercy of the employer. It does not follow that all employers will abuse this privilege, as some of them do in the Lead Belt. Some employers, it must be admitted, are willing to pay their employees a reasonable and humane remuneration. At the same time the force of competition will in many cases compel the unprotected and unorganized workman, rather than starve, to accept a wage insufficient to maintain a decent standard of living or to keep him in a state of industrial efficiency.

Wherever labor is unorganized and competition exists, the effect is not only felt in decreased wages, but also, in longer hours, in unsanitary conditions and in the tyranny of "straw-bosses." In many ways other than the amount of wages and the hours of labor, does the employer exert a strong influence upon the welfare of the workman. Wherever there is unorganized or disorganized labor there are cases of unfair advantage taken of employees. The employer dictates to the unorganized workman where he shall live, where he is to work. The conditions under which the work shall be done, the amount of remuneration he shall receive and as to the protection the worker shall have from death in mine or mill are wholly in the hands of the employer. The employer also retains the right to choose unreservedly the companions and fellow-servants of the unorganized workman; and thus the man who may put the new employee's life in jeopardy is entirely of the employer's choosing.

The crisis and commercial depressions which have swept over this country during almost every decade, have resulted in intense suffering on the part of workmen, a suffering accentuated by the competition of great masses of immigrants who come here during more prosperous times. Even apart from such crises, the workman is subject to the loss of his job through sickness, accident or other contingencies beyond his control, and in a vast majority of the cases he can secure no compensation from the employer for injury inflicted by an accident, no matter how free the workman himself is from carelessness or contributory negligence. The employee is also subject to loss of his position through advancing age, and in the case of a majority of unorganized workers, no provision is made for him in this event. I think it time we workers of the Lead Belt were waking up and demanding justice both in respect to wages and working conditions. Experience has taught us that the only way in which any concessions can be obtained from some of the older corporations of the Lead Belt is through "force." Then, why not organize and like men, and true American citizens, demand without equivocation or mental reservation what is right and justly due us.

WOREER.

CARRANZA NOW MEXICO'S CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT

At the Mexico election for President and Congressional Representatives, last Sunday, March 11, de facto President Carranza was elected Constitutional President, according to reports, by what is believed to have been the largest vote ever cast in the Republic. Although the voters had the privilege of writing in or declaring any name they desired, General Carranza received all but a few scattering ballots. The estimated vote is from several hundred thousand to a million.

The presidential election was provided for in articles adopted by the Constitutional Assembly which met at Queretaro. Many of the old residents declare that this was the first real election ever held in the country. Reports indicate that there was no disturbance or intimidation.

Although there was no opposition for the presidency, the congressional contests were bitterly fought. Conditions at the polls throughout the district were orderly and there was a steady stream of voters during the day.

Troops were not in evidence, the soldiers casting their votes in their barracks.

Mexico will now have a Constitutional President for the first time since 1911. Gen. Victoriano Huerta called an election in 1914 and declared himself elected, but later nullified the election on the grounds that an insufficient number of votes had been cast.

German-Americans who were lately striving for the Iron Cross will find an honorable discharge from the United States Army or Navy a bulky substitute.

The Times "Buy at Home" Dept.

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Founded on Facts and Should Be Lived Up to by the American People—Not Religious Creed—People of North, South, East and West Can Unite For Good.

[Copyrighted, 1914, by Thomas J. Sullivan.]
Every failure is a step to success; every detection of what is false directs us to what is true; every trial exhausts some tempting form of error. Not only so, but scarcely any attempt is entirely a failure; scarcely any theory, the result of steady thought, is altogether false. No tempting form of error is without some latent charm derived from truth. With these thoughts in mind I have prepared what I call the consumer's creed.

A Gate to the City.
It is not a religious creed. If it were I would not be writing it, as I am afraid I might get my metaphors crossed. This is a business creed, something like the people of New England unconsciously adopted when Lord North undertook to tax them. Therefore they had always been accustomed to divide on points. It so happened, fortunately, that their opposition to Lord North was a point on which they were all united. It was a business point.

I have written a creed upon which the people of the north, south, east and west can all unite for their own good.
A good creed is a gate to the city which has golden foundations; a misleading creed may be a road to destruction, or if both misleading and alluring it may become what Shakespeare calls a primrose path to the eternal bonfire.

Perhaps my creed is nothing more than a set of principles which it would be well for every consumer to practice. Read them and then adopt them as your very own:

A Business Creed.
First—I do not patronize the mail order system because it is selfish and greedy and for the reason that I buy at home, where my interests are.

Second—If this community is good enough for my family and I to live in it ought to be good enough for my family and I to buy our necessities in.

Third—I will not take the word of the mail order house for its goods, as I want to see what I am buying, and I want to get what I pay for.

Fourth—I do not patronize the mail order houses because they demand cash in advance, and when I am "broke" and sick and need supplies my home dealer is willing to "carry" me.

Fifth—I patronize the home dealer because he stands back of his goods and in case of error is willing to rectify.

Sixth—I patronize the home merchant because I believe a man ought to spend his money in the community in which he earns it.

Seventh—I patronize the home merchant because I believe the man who sells what he produces and buys what he needs at home cannot be injured by deceptive catalogue pictures or alleged bargains.

Eighth—I do not patronize the mail order houses because they frequently sell damaged and inferior goods, which it avails a man nothing to attempt to exchange. But the man I patronize—the home merchant, the man who helps to pay the town, county and state tax—will exchange any article I buy from him which is unsatisfactory.

Ninth—I spend my money with my home merchant in preference to some mail order house in a distant city because the local merchants help to support the public schools where I send my children, the churches and the dependent poor in my vicinity.

Tenth—I patronize the local merchant because he does not try to trick me into buying "cheap" goods, which because of their defectiveness prove to be expensive, and, further, because should ill luck or bereavement come my way my local dealer would not only prove that he was a neighbor and a friend, but a man, with a man's heart and a man's inclination to do good; not a soulless corporation like the mail order system, whose only interest is greed and a further desire for gain.

"Do Unto Others."
Let all citizens follow this creed and they will be blessed with happy homes and a happy life. They will prosper financially and at the same time improve their moral standard. Do for your neighbor what you would like him to do for you; then you are doing your full duty to yourself and to all mankind.
Moral—Buy and sell at home.

We need your old tires and inner tubes or any old rubber and country rags; brass, copper, zinc, lead, aluminum, or any old junk. We have the cash or furniture to exchange for it.
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Do you believe in the "BUY AT HOME" doctrine? If you do you should have a space in this department. It costs you but 25c a week. The subject matter will be changed each week.

AMERICA FOR ME

Coming across from Holland on the steamship Rotterdam, I had the pleasure of meeting Henry Van Dyke, the well known author, then U. S. Minister to the Netherlands. He was home-bound on a brief leave of absence. As both our ancestors came from Holland, at a time when New York was known as New Amsterdam, and as neither of us had ever been hyphenated Americans, the companionship was especially pleasurable to me. I had been in foreign lands just long enough to have a clearer vision of America and to better understand that inner feeling of loyalty and patriotism which caused Mr. Van Dyke to write to poem, "America For Me," which follows:—F. O. Van Galder.
It is fine to see the old world, and travel up and down
Among the famous palaces and cities of renown,
To admire the crumbling castles and the statues of the kings—
But now I think I've had enough of antiquated things.

So it's home again, and home again, America for me!
My heart's turning home again, and there I long to be,
In the land of youth and freedom beyond the ocean bars,
Where the air is full of sunlight and the flag is full of stars.

Oh, London is a man's town, there's power in the air;
And Paris is a woman's town, with flowers in her hair;
And it's sweet to dream of Venice, and it's great to study Rome;
But when it comes to living, there is no place like home.

I like the German fir-woods, in green battalions drilled;
I like the gardens of Versailles, with flashing fountains filled;
But, oh, to take your hand, my dear, and ramble for a day
In the friendly Western woodland, where Nature has her way!

I know that Europe's wonderful, yet something seems to lack;
The Past is too much with her, and the people looking back.
But the glory of the Present is to make the Future free—
We love our land for what she is and what she is to be.

Oh, it's home again, and home again, America for me!
I want a ship that's westward bound to plough the rolling sea,
To the blessed land of Room Enough beyond the ocean bars,
Where the air is full of sunlight and the flag is full of stars.

POLL TAX NOTICE

Notice is given to all able-bodied male inhabitants of Road District No. 22, over 21 and under fifty years of age, that there has been levied upon each of said inhabitants a poll tax of \$3.00, and that I will be at Sugar Grove School House at 2 o'clock p. m., on Saturday, March 24, 1917, to meet them and receive their taxes. If such tax is not paid within 30 days after June, the same may be recovered by suit as provided by law.
GEORGE HUMPHREY,
Road Overseer Dist. No. 22.

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When you have no relish for your meals.
When your liver is torpid.
Obtainable everywhere. (adv.)
The idea of a Villa officer being named Prudencio!